

The Obama Abomination

When President Obama took the oath of office three years ago, he swore to defend the constitutionally-guaranteed rights of all Americans. There were no asterisks denoting exceptions for health care providers, religious employers, service members, or military chaplains. More than three years later, his inaugural words fail to match his actions and those of his administration.

President Obama gave America a preview of his warpath against organized religion and people of faith when he undid parts of a President Bush Executive Order protecting health care providers from being required to perform, participate in, or provide a medical procedure with which they had religious or moral objection.

But in the past month alone the Obama Administration has gone guns-a-blazing, full-force against both religion and the Constitution.

First, President Obama and his "Catholic" Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius finalized a rule that will require Catholic employees to cover and pay for contraception – including abortion drugs – and sterilization. The fact that the Catholic teaching excludes artificial contraception or abortion matters not a single bit to President Obama. HHS argued that a one-year exemption is all religious organizations need in order to comply with this law. What President Obama and Secretary Sebelius do not get is that religious organizations and people of faith do not need time to renounce their faith; they need their First Amendment views to be protected.

Second, President Obama's Secretary of the Army – a political appointee – silenced Catholic chaplains from speaking out against this HHS rule attacking religious freedom. If you are Catholic you heard in your Sunday Mass a message from your Bishop that "We cannot, we will not, comply with this unjust law." But not if you were serving in the military defending the freedoms of other Americans. Instead, the Army's Office of the Chief of Chaplains attempted to censor the reading of the letter from Archbishop of Military Services Timothy Broglio. After a conversation between Archbishop Broglio and Army Secretary McHugh, it was decided that line would be eliminated.

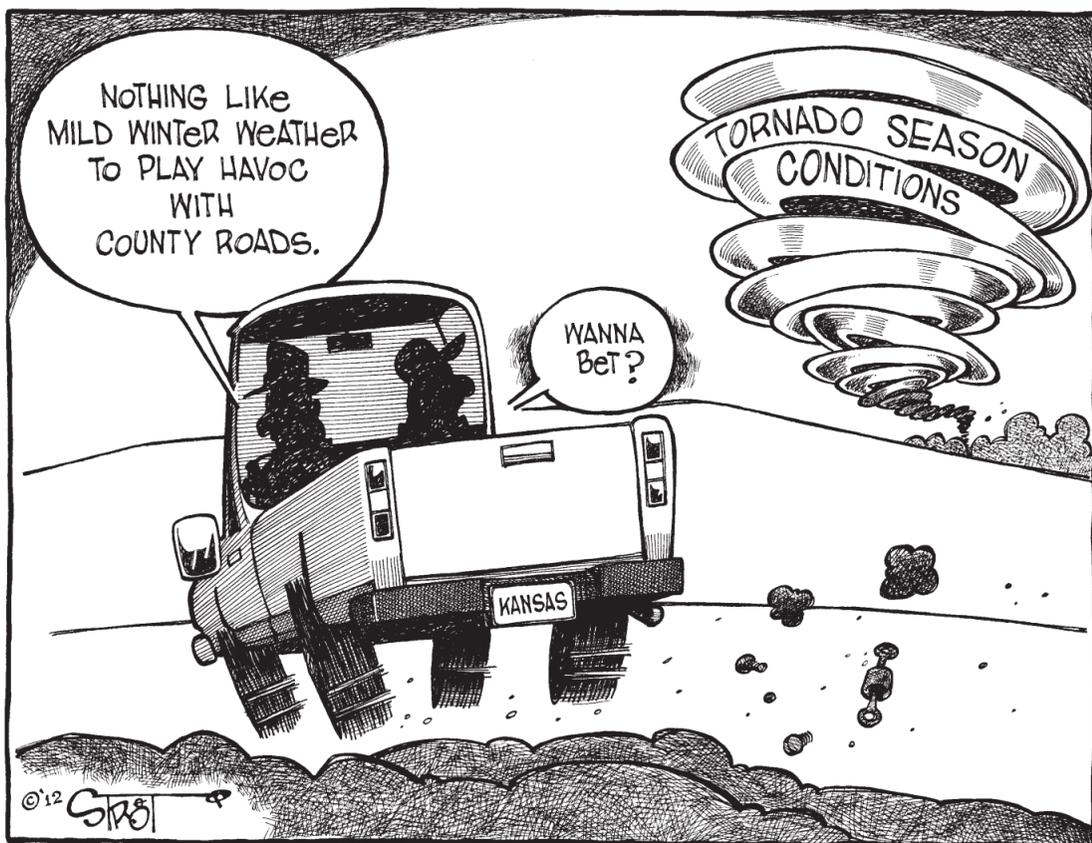
Non-Catholics, those not in the military, and even those who support the use of abortion drugs and contraception should take offense at and be outraged by the actions of the Obama Administration. It could just as easily be something other than sterilization or abortion drugs next time. This HHS rule requiring religious entities to act in contravention of their teachings is a clear violation of their rights to exercise freely their religions. The gag order on Catholic chaplains amounts to an obvious violation of free speech. Who or what is next?

The Administration tried to backtrack, but the "compromise" is merely the "Obama-Sebelius" fig leaf. The widely-reported press conference "accommodation" does nothing to respect the religious liberties of employers. After proclaiming an economic fallacy – that the costs would be magically paid by someone else other than the employer – Sebelius and Obama finalized the rule without any actual changes. More empty rhetorical gestures – more attacks on religious liberty.

President Obama and Secretary Sebelius are receiving the backlash they are due for this reckless, errant, and unconstitutional requirement being forced upon the country. Their audacity to pay only lip service to the First Amendment concerns of Americans and to finalize the rule without protecting people of faith shows just how out-of-touch they are with the American people. But, perhaps more concerning is that their rule shows how selective they are with protecting the rights of Americans.

And, for that, the Obama Administration is an abomination.

Republican Congressman Tim Huelskamp



Learning that history repeats itself

Recently Rick Santorum announced he wanted to "throw up" after watching a video of then Presidential Candidate John F. Kennedy's 1960 speech to a group of Protestant ministers. The future President, in response to GOP attacks questioning his ability to stand up to the Pope, spoke of the need to keep church and state separate.

Santorum, when questioned about this, elaborated saying, "The idea that the church can have no influence or no involvement in the operation of the state is absolutely antithetical to the objectives and vision of our country." I don't know if it is a prerequisite for GOP candidates to not know history, but, as they say, it is bound to repeat itself. George W. led us into a war because of his lack of knowledge of history and Santorum seems to know little about why he even is in a position to pursue the Republican presidential nomination.

It wasn't so long ago, a Catholic

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



was not seen as presidential material because the Protestants feared a leader directed by the Vatican. Our founding fathers realized, because of their religious intolerance experiences in England, the need to keep church and state separate and Kennedy's speech upheld these constitutional values. Santorum, on the other hand, seems more intent on promoting his religious values than democratic ones. And as much as we might like to think the two are synonymous, they rarely are. Why? Because they are directed by the human race. Forgive me, God, an extremely inefficient and ignorant species.

President Obama knows he has been able to attain his success because of those who have gone before. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks and countless of unnamed individuals were willing to risk their lives for his freedom to become President of this great country. Santorum, on the other hand, gives credit to no one for his place in history. Whether you were/are a Kennedy Democrat (thinking of you Tom Dreiling) or not, one cannot disregard Kennedy's contribution to our "more perfect union". As the President's oath states and as President Kennedy reiterated in the above mentioned speech, "For without reservation, I can "solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution, so help me God." Mailto:mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

Dear Editor

You, I and 142 other people ate today because of one American farmer. We officially recognized our farmers and all they do to make our lives better on March 8, National Ag Day. Farmers not only produce food, fiber and fuel, they contribute to a strong economy. In fact, the total impact of agriculture and agribusinesses accounts for 20 percent of the state's economy, according to Kansas Inc.

The role of farmers will become even more critical with the exploding world population. We reached 7 billion people in 2011. The United Nations forecasts that world population will reach 9 billion by 2050 - and that farmers will have to produce 70 percent more food than they do today.

I'm proud to be part of a Kansas family farm that has helped feed the world for five generations. We are also raising the next generation of farmers and cherish every planting, every birth of our livestock, and every harvest we spend together.

Be part of Kansas agriculture, if even just for one day. Take a drive in the country with your family, for instance. There's no prettier green than winter wheat fields waking from winter dormancy. And wave if you see a farmer. I guarantee they'll wave back.

Happy Ag Day!

Lesley Schmidt, A Kansas Agri-Woman from Wichita, Kansas

The benefit of being prepared for a road trip

Road trip!!!

Some anticipated freight was at the Fed-Ex depot in Goodland. We were expecting to be informed when it left Farmington, NM.

Instead we get the call, it's here, pick it up! Today or at the latest: tomorrow

I have to be careful when telling this story. We made a foray to the implement dealer in St Francis en route (it's not much out of the way).

My sister lives in St Francis, but we didn't let her know we were in town. To be precise we may not have been in the city limits; and it was less than five minutes and she works out in the country and the trip was spontaneous. I expect you all to keep my secret!

The second reason I'm reluctant to tell is sometimes the hubby takes it personally when I write about him. Go figure!

This was not our first experience with picking up Fed-Ex freight. The other was in Salina. And the hubby failed to get directions or even an address! He just thought he knew where it was. Sort of----

It's a man thing! Or a Hagman thing.

His brother was telling us of a trip he made with his wife and kids several years ago to Russell to look at a John Deere G. If you know what that is; good for you! His wife contends they

This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



drove around for thirty minutes. An allegation he does not deny.

She thought he should stop and ask for directions. Rod says, "You don't do things like that!"

WHY???

The trip ended happily for him. They found the guy and he accepted the amount offered.

Apparently they name their farm equipment because a jubilant Rod returned to the car and to lighten the atmosphere said, "I got it, what are we going to name it?"

When no one made a suggestion, he christened it Grumpy! After all it was a "G".

A couple of decades later, his wife still isn't laughing!

I'll give the Hubby this: he did finally stop and get directions to the Fed-Ex depot in Salina.

The Salina experience prompted me to get an address for the Goodland depot. Goodland is considerably smaller than Salina but if you can be

lost in Russell for half an hour, it might happen in Goodland.

I informed the hubby I had the address. He says, "We don't need an address, it's probably down by Wal-Mart!"

The logic escapes me.

We stopped at Stitch Up a Storm in Norton. I was so busy thinking of addresses and how to explain to my sister I was in St Francis but never called that I forgot some reading material for while I was waiting on the Hubby.

They sold me a quilt magazine but also lent me some Country Living magazines they had in the back of the store. People are so kind. Perfect strangers will even give you directions if you are lost and your pride lets you admit it!

All in all it was a successful trip. I found a quilt pattern I liked and a brownie recipe in the Country Living. We stopped at Wal-Mart so I got the ingredients.

Thanks to my advance planning we found Fed-Ex easily. We entered town on the east side because the address was East 19th! See how that works?

Is it close to Wal-Mart? Ummm--- both are south of the railroad tracks and north of I-70.

Close enough the Hubby and his brother could have found it---in about thirty minutes!

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

OFFICE HOURS:
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Thur.
8 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Friday
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732

STAFF

Dana Paxton..... General Manager
Advertising Director/
email: dpaxton@nwkanssas.com
Carleen Bell Managing Editor
cbell@nwkanssas.com
Dick Boyd Blue Jay Sports
nortontelegam@nwkanssas.com
Michael Stephens..... Reporter
Society Editor/Area Sports
mstephens@nwkanssas.com
Vicki Henderson..... Computer Production
Marcia Shelton Office Manager

E-mail:
nortontelegam@nwkanssas.com

ISSN 1063-701X
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002

Kansas Press Association



A huge thumbs up to the Norton Jr. High Cheerleading Squad and their sponsors for an amazing job on their dance routine at the Jr. High wrestling duals held in the East Campus. For that many girls to do that good of a job, obviously took many, many hours of hard work and dedication? Super job ladies and a big thank you to their sponsors/coaches. Mailed in.

Remember there is no charge for rendering a Thumbs Up. Thumbs Up are meant to give recognition for a positive person or event in the community. Also remember all Letters to the Editor must be signed.